

Because the settlers in Center Creek depended upon farming for their livelihood, irrigation waters were of utmost importance. Some of the earliest community cooperative projects, as well as some of the disputes, transpired because of the need for irrigation water.

The first settlers in the area laid claim to the water in Center Creek and also some of the smaller streams nearby. This meant that new families coming into the area either had to get permission from the older residents to use the water, or look elsewhere for their irrigation needs. The new settlers felt that there was ample water for everyone if it were to be distributed fairly, but try as they would, they couldn't persuade the original settlers to give up much of it.

As a result, many meetings were held in an effort to solve the problem, and it was finally resolved that the newer settlers would go into Center Creek Canyon and look for sites where reservoirs could be built to hold water that was just going to waste. They located and staked out six reservoir sites, and began the task of building the dams. However, the struggles were still not ended because the early settlers then attempted to stop them from filling the dams. Many lively meetings ensued before it was finally decided to organize a reservoir company in 1879 and subsequently the Center Creek Irrigation and Water Company in 1887. Now 72 years later these two companies were consolidated in 1962.

With the organization of the Irrigation Company, the settlement of disputes was left up to the officers and directors, who attempted to be as fair as possible. William Richardson Sr. was the first president of the company. Other officers were Parley Murdock, Archibald Sellers and George Hyrum Sweat.

While the community of Center Creek was growing, another community about two miles north of Center began to develop. This was known as Lake Creek, and began about 1877. Robert Lindsay and his wife Sarah Ann, and William Lindsay and his wife Mary, had been living in Heber, but decided to look around for a site where they might establish more permanent homes. They finally decided on a site three miles east of Heber, near a spring, and in 1877 moved from Heber to begin farming the rich soil.

They built log homes and lived close together until about 1883 when they decided it would be much easier to work the farm land if one family lived in the upper section. They drew lots to see who would move, and Robert got the "cut" to move. He built a two-room log house and later a large, two-story home for his family.

As these men found success in farming the Lake Creek land, others soon began to take up homesteads in the area. Some of these homesteaders included Bengt Peterson, James Nash, William Murdoch Sr., William Baird Sr. and John W. Crook.

An excellent sandstone quarry was developed on property owned by John Crook and Herbert Clegg. The stone was used to build many of

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THE WASATCH

IRRIGATION.

The following report made to the governor of Utah Territory in 1889 by the county surveyor of Wasatch County, sets out the condition of our irrigation systems, as they existed at that time in as brief and comprehensive a form as we are able to find. The report reads as follows:

COUNTY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

On the Irrigation System of Wasatch County.

Heber, Aug. 1, 1889.

To His Excellency Gov. Arthur L. Thomas, Salt Lake City:

Dear Sir:—By request of the county court of Wasatch County, I hereby submit a report of the irrigation system of Provo valley, and a few suggestions as to how it can be improved and enlarged, together with a map showing the irrigating canals, creeks, etc., and the arable land under irrigation, and that may be brought under irrigation by a proper system of canals and reservoirs. Provo valley proper comprises Heber, Midway and Charleston. It extends up and down the Provo river for a distance of about twelve miles, being about twelve miles wide near the center of the valley and gradually narrowing to a point at each

Midway Irrigation Company.

The irrigation system on the west side of the river in this valley is controlled by one corporation. There is one large canal taking water from Snake creek and a number of small ditches. The cost of this canal and these ditches, I have been unable to obtain. In addition to this, the company has commenced the construction

agement and a system of canals and reservoirs.

Recapitulation.

We find from the above estimate that there are about 18,000 acres of land in this county that is irrigated or in a condition to be irrigated, and about 32,000 acres of arable land in the county. There can be local reservoirs constructed to irrigate in Round Val-

... .. 2,000; Snake Creek, 2,000; Gen-